

an image re-editing device for re-editing the edited image transmitted from said image server; and

Q4 a re-editing information transmission device for transmitting re-editing information relating to the re-edited image to said image server.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, 22-36, 38-43 and 45-50 are in the present application, claims 21, 37 and 44 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein, new claims 49 and 50 being added by the present Amendment.

Claim Rejections

1. The Examiner has rejected claims 11, 25 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hunt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,235). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 11, Applicants submit that Hunt et al. fail to teach or suggest the claimed transmitting and reducing steps as claimed in claim 11. In the present application, transmission and display information are transmitted from the client computer to the image server. When the image transmission and display information are received in the image server, a reduction processing of the quantity of the image data, which represents the image specified by the image transmission

command, is performed on the basis of a display information in response to the image transmission command. Accordingly, the data quantity is reduced in accordance with the display device.

Conversely, in Hunt et al., image control data is transmitted to a server 102 from a client 104. A stored image is customized in accordance with the received image control data at the server 102. However, and unlike claim 11, the image in Hunt et al. is not customized in accordance with the display device.

As to claims 25 and 29, Applicants submit that Hunt et al. fail to teach or suggest the claimed image information transmission device of the image server, and/or a retrieval means of the client computer as claimed in claims 25 and 29. In the present application, since the image data first transmitted to the image server can be retrieved in the client computer, image synthesis processing, editing processing, etc. can be performed again using the image data.

Regarding Hunt et al., after initial transmission, the image data transmitted to the server 102 from the client 104 cannot be transmitted to the client 104 again (i.e., retransmitted). Thus, image data which has been transmitted once the server cannot be retrieved from the client. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 25 and 29 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above.

2. Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17-19, 23, 27, 28, and 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hunt et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

(a) Claims 1, 5 and 9

Applicants note that each of claims 1, 5 and 9 include features somewhat similar to the features claimed above regarding independent claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants submit that each of claims 1, 5 and 9 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above regarding claim 11. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

(b) Claim 13.

With respect to claim 13, Applicants submit that Hunt et al. fail to teach or suggest an image display data transmission device of the image server, image characteristics setting device, and/or the image characteristics data transmission device claimed in claim 13.

As discussed in the present application, the image display data for displaying a plurality of sample images is transmitted to the image data receiver from the image server. This plurality of sampling is displayed on the display device. The image is selected from the displayed sample images, and the characteristics are determined in accordance with the selection. Moreover, when the image data is transmitted to the image data receiver from the image server at a later time, image data can then be adjusted or modified in accordance with the determined image

characteristics. Therefore, any attempt to modify image data can be transmitted to the image data receiver from the server.

Conversely, in Hunt et al., control data is transmitted to the server 102 from client 104. The data for displaying a plurality of sample images is not transmitted. Additionally, the size of the image is changed based on the image control data. Accordingly, any of the image control data, as described in Hunt, cannot be like, and is clearly different from the image characteristics of the present application.

(c) Claims 19, 27 and 31.

Regarding these claims, Applicants have amended these claims in an effort to make the distinctions over Hunt et al. even more apparent. With respect to claim 19, a print image area designation means and a partial image data extraction means have been added to the claim. According to the application, the image data quantity is reduced without data compression processing, which enables the image data quantity to be reduced in an easier manner. Applicants submit that Hunt et al. is silent on either of these features which are also featured in amended claims 27 and 31.

(d) Claims 23 and 28.

As to amended claims 23 and 28, Applicants have added limitations directed to a calculation device and a display device which displays the time required for transmission which is calculated by the calculation device. As discussed in the application, the time required for

transmission is initially calculated. The calculation time is also displayed. Therefore, a user of the client computer may determine the information related to the time required for transmission, so that the compression rate can be further increased or decreased, as desired. Hunt et al. make no mention regarding whether the time is either calculated and/or displayed. In Hunt et al., the transmission time may only be reduced.

Therefore, as set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that each of claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17-19, 23, 27, 28, 31-33 are allowable over Hunt et al. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is earnestly solicited.

(e) Claims 10 and 12

Claims 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,720,013) in view of Hirono et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,154). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and is further applicable to new claim 49 for the following reasons.

As can be seen from the Amendment, claims 10 and 12 have been amended to recite limitations to a first color conversion device, a printer controller, a second color conversion device and an image data transmission device. Applicants submit that neither Uda or Hirono et al. teach or suggest these features and the relationships recited in amended claims 10 and 12 regarding these limitations.

In the present application, since the image data is converted in accordance with a characteristic of the printer, and is converted in accordance with the characteristic of the display device, the color of the image printed at the printer and the color of the image displayed on the display device coincide with each other. This is clearly set forth at page 40, line 25 through page 41, line 16 of the specification.

In Uda et al., print processing in a printer 104a is controlled in accordance with the command from a host processor 101, but says nothing about the above-noted added limitations. Even assuming *arguendo* that Hirono et al. could be combined with Uda et al. (which Applicants submit it cannot), Hirono et al. fail to cure the deficiencies in Uda et al. Hirono et al., only appears relevant regarding the ability to change a display direction. Accordingly, since the combination of Uda et al. and Hirono et al. fall short of what is taught in the claims, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(f) Claims 26, 30 and 34.

Claims 26, 30 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uda et al. in view of Kurahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,687,332). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that claim 26 (and also claims 30 and 34) have been similarly amended to incorporate new features to a receiving device (or receiving a part of a printing template image data), and a synthesis

device for synthesizing a part of the received printing template image data.

According to the present application, a part of the printing template image data used for the printing processing is transmitted from the image server to the client computer. A part of a composite image is generated in the client computer using a part of the printing template image data, as well as a part of the user image data. Thus, a user of the client computer can obtain a part of the composite image to be printed, such that the user can confirm the quality of the composite image until actually printed by visually inspecting that part of the composite image.

Conversely, and as previously explained above, print processing in Uda et al. is done in accordance with a command from a host computer 101. Uda et al. say nothing about the receiving and synthesizing of a part of the printing template image data. Even if Kurahashi et al. arguably could be combined with Uda et al., Kurahashi et al. fail to cure the above deficiencies. In Kurahashi et al., in order to edit an image in which "WWW" 2 is inserted in the circular of image 1, the circular of image 1 and "WWW" 2 are combined to form image 3. This process requires an inordinately long time to combine all of the images, which is unlike the present application, wherein, since a part of a composite image is generated, expedites the process. Accordingly, in view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection as pertaining to these claims is respectfully requested.

(g) Claims 35-48.

Claims 35-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurahashi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and as further applicable to new claim 50 for the following reasons. Initially, claims 37 and 44 have been canceled; thus the rejection is now moot regarding these claims. Each of independent claims 35, 41, 42 and 48 have been similarly amended to reflect the receiving and controlling of allowance data regarding editing or re-editing of an image generated by a client computer. In view of the amendments to these claims, Applicants submit that the Examiner must revisit Kurahashi et al., which does not appear to teach these features as related to the allowance, editing or re-editing of an image, and as related to receipt and control of an image editing device to execute such edition.

Particularly with respect to claim 35, Applicants have also added a new claim 50 dependent thereon to make the distinctions over Kurahashi et al. even more apparent. New claim 50 (portions of which are incorporated into each of independent claims 41, 42 and 48) recites a feature of execution data and its relation to a judgement device in an image server, as well as an allowance data transmission device which transmits allowance data based on the result of the judgement device. The execution data indicating that an image is edited or re-edited is transmitted to the image server prior to editing or re-editing the image in a client computer. Additionally, the image is edited or re-edited only

when the editing or re-editing of the image is allowed by the image server. Thus, the image cannot be simultaneously edited or re-edited in any of the plurality of client computers, which prevents a number of different edited images from co-existing with each other.

Conversely, as can be seen Kurahashi et al., image 1 and "WWW" 2 are only combined to form an image 3, as previously mentioned above. Thus, Kurahashi et al. does not appear relevant, and clearly do not teach the features recited in new claim 50, which has been incorporated in each of independent claims 41, 42 and 48 as set. Accordingly, in view of these claim amendments and the above remarks, Applicants submit that each of claims 35-48, as well as new claim 50, are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested as pertaining to these claims.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejections to pass each of remaining claims 1-20, 22-36, 38-43 and 45-50 to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Matthew J. Lattig (Reg. No. 45,274) at the telephone number of the undersigned below in order to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

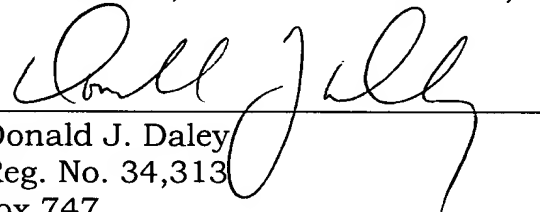
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) months to May 26, 2000 for the period in which to file a Response to the outstanding Office Action.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Very truly yours,

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